

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Final Office Action mailed November 1, 2007.

I. Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Final Office Action mailed November 1, 2007, claims 1, 3-8, 10, 29-35, and 37-45 were pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 29-30, 32, 34-35, 37-39, 41, and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Park et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0024812, hereinafter Park). Claims 4, 6, 31, 33, 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Park, in view of Official Notice.

II. Summary of Applicants' Amendments

The present Reply amends claims 1, 29, and 38, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1, 3-8, 10, 29-35, and 37-45. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the following arguments is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 29-30, 32, 34-35, 37-39, 41, and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Park et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0024812, hereinafter Park).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the present Response to more clearly define the embodiment of the invention therein. As amended, claim 1 defines:

1. (Currently amended) A method of searching a plurality of service provider content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of service provider content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy of nodes such that a content node is created for each of the plurality of service provider content repositories, each content node identifies a service provider content repository, and each content node is associated with its own content schema, a hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of service provider content repositories, each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the set of content nodes, and each hierarchy node is associated with its own hierarchy schema;

providing a plurality of application program interfaces (APIs) that interface between a plurality of applications and the VCR;

wherein each one of the plurality of service provider content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) that provides VCR access to each of the corresponding service provider content repositories, such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding service provider content repository;

displaying content nodes and hierarchy nodes of the VCR in an application to enable searching of the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith;

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression, including searching the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith; and

providing search results.

Claim 1 requires providing for the representation of the plurality of service provider content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR). The VCR includes a content model, the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy nodes. Each content node identifies a service provider content repository, and each hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of service provider content repositories. A plurality of application program interfaces (APIs) are provided to interface between a plurality of applications and the VCR. Each content repository implements a service provider interface (SPI) that provides VCR access to each of the corresponding service provider content repositories, such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding service provider content repository. The content nodes and hierarchy nodes of the VCR are displayed in an application to enable searching of the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith.

In the embodiment of claim 1, the VCR presents a unified view of all content repositories to application programs enabling them to navigate, perform create, read, update and delete operations, and search across multiple content repositories as though they were a single repository. (Spec., para. 0031). For example, Fig. 8 an application hierarchy nodes (labeled BEA Repository, HR, Images, Marketing, and Products) and content nodes 806 of the VCR 802. In the embodiment of claim 1, these hierarchy nodes are types of content available in the plurality of service provider content repositories, and the content nodes 806 identifies a service provider content repository. In the embodiment of claim 1, these APIs are provided to interface between the plurality of applications and the VCR. As shown in Fig. 8, this VCR logical representation of the repositories makes them appear and behave as a single repository from the API's standpoint. (Spec., para. 0030). In the embodiment of claim 1, each content repository implements a service provider interface (SPI) that provides VCR access to each of

the corresponding service provider content repositories, such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding service provider content repository. SPIs provide a means through which a service [provider content repository] can be accessed and utilized. (Spec., p. 5, para. 0030). Another advantage of the VCR representation of content repositories is that a large amount of data from various sources can be organized into the content model through the use of the content and hierarchy nodes, yet the data from the various content repositories does not need to be copied to a central location. Yet another advantage is that resulting data from searches does not need to be copied into the VCR.

Park discloses a content publication system for supporting real-time integration and processing of multimedia content including dynamic data. A repository 8, that includes content repository 70, may store data produced by a service producer in advance and data brought from various data sources in real time. Data can be images, audio, video, or multimedia data. The content repository 70 is capable of integrating a plurality of static and dynamic content, in units of containers 74. (paras. 0031 and 0041).

Claim 1 requires displaying content nodes and hierarchy nodes of the VCR in an application to enable searching of the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith. Park provides containers to integrate static and dynamic content. The container is a basic unit of storage and can receive dynamic data from a browser of a user's terminal. (paras. 0041-0042). The containers are not displayed to an application to enable searching. The container as a basic unit of storage as disclosed in Park is different than the content node that identifies a service provider content repository, and which is displayed in an application to the user to enable searching of the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith, as required by claim 1.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Park fails to teach or suggest providing for the representation of the plurality of service provider content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy of nodes, each content node identifies a service provider content repository, and a hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of service provider content repositories; providing a plurality of application program interfaces (APIs) that interface between a plurality of applications and the VCR; wherein each one of the plurality of service provider content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) that provides VCR access to each of the corresponding service provider content repositories, such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding service provider content repository; and displaying content nodes and hierarchy nodes of the VCR in an application to

enable searching of the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith, as required by claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiment defined by claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Park, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claim.

Claims 29 and 38

The comments provided above with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Claims 29 and 38 have been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiments of the invention therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 29 and 38 are likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of Park, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 34, and 43

Claims 7, 34, and 43 require extending the content model to store information about the content model in the plurality of service provider content repositories. As discussed above for claim 1, the content nodes and hierarchy nodes, which each have their own schemas, are part of the content model. Park discloses that each container is identified by a directory path 160 in a repository storing the container and its author name. Park does not disclose storing this information with the various data sources. Thus, the directory path and author name stored in the same content repository as the container as disclosed in Park is not the same as storing content model information into the separate plurality of service provider content repositories, as required by claims 7, 34, and 43. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 34, and 43 are neither anticipate by, nor obvious in view of Park, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 37, and 45

Claims 10, 37, and 45 require searching one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas. As discussed above for claim 1, the content nodes and hierarchy nodes, which each have their own schemas, are part of the content model. Park discloses an integrate search service for integrating data from various data sources and allowing for search based on search conditions. The various sources of 1b are included in services 1a-1e that can be published by the service publication server 4. (para. 0035). Searching for data from these services is not the same as searching for data in a content model, a model that represents such services. Thus, Park does not disclose searching

one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas, as required by claims 10, 37, and 45. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 34, and 43 are neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of Park, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 8, 30, 32, 35, 39, 41, and 44

Claims 3, 5, 8, 30, 32, 35, 39, 41, and 44 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable in view of the comments provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

IV. Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4, 6, 31, 33, 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Park, in view of Official Notice.

Claims 4, 6, 31, 33, 40, and 42

Claims 4, 6, 31, 33, 40, and 42 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable in view of the comments provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations, which render them patentable in their own right. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

V. Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if she can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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